

## IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR BALTIMORE COUNTY, MARYLAND

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER NO. 2020-18

## ORDER AUTHORIZING EMAIL FILING BY OFFICE OF PUBLIC DEFENDER

## DURING COMPUTER OUTAGE

WHEREAS the Circuit Court for Baltimore County has received notice that the computer systems of the Office of the Public Defender ("OPD") have been compromised by malware that presently prevents the OPD from filing documents into the Maryland Electronic Courts ("MDEC") system; and

WHEREAS pursuant to Maryland Rule 20-106(b)(2) the OPD is permitted to file documents in paper from until their ability to file electronically is restored; and

WHEREAS on March 5, 2020, in response to the COVID-19 virus, the Governor declared "that a state of emergency and catastrophic health emergency exists within the entire state of Maryland"; and

WHEREAS on March 12, 2020, the Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals issued an order suspending non-essential judicial activities in Maryland's courts, and on March 16, 2020 restricted courts to emergency operations; and

WHEREAS it is imperative to protect the health and safety of employees, judges, attorneys and litigants during emergency operations and for the foreseeable future; and

WHEREAS on March 30, 2020, the Governor issued a "Stay-At-Home" directive for Maryland and directed that movement be restricted to essential functions; and

WHEREAS paper filings in a drop box, to later be scanned and uploaded, require unnecessary mobility and an increased risk to public safety during this public health crisis;

NOW THEREFORE, pursuant to Rule 16-105(b), it is hereby:

ORDERED that the Office of the Public Defender is permitted to file papers with the Circuit Court for Baltimore County through email, as directed by Juvenile Department, the Criminal Department and the Civil Department, during such time as the Office of the Public Defender access to MDEC remains compromised by the current malware attack; it is further

ORDERED that upon restoration of MDEC access to the Office of the Public Defender, all papers filed with the Court must be submitted through MDEC.

Date

3/30/20

( )  
Kathleen Gallogly Cox  
Administrative Judge

LR - Government  
Instrument 0.00  
Agency Name: BALITMORE  
COUNTY MARYLAND  
Instrument List: Order  
Describe Other:  
Ref:  
Total: 0.00  
03/31/2020 08:36  
CC03-NR  
#13575977 CC0301 -  
County/CC03.01.16 -  
Register 16